



Lifesaving Society Update

July 10, 2020

As the Lifesaving Society continues to provide updated information and resources to support your plans related to staffing and reopening aquatic facilities, please note the following items:

1. **Affiliate Support and Aquatic Staff Training:** To help ensure your aquatic staff are prepared and confident in returning to their jobs, the Lifesaving Society provides the following resources:
 - a. [Staff Reorientation for COVID-19, A Sample Inservice Outline](#) (in Affiliate Resources only)
 - b. [Guidelines for Delivering Distance Education](#) (in Affiliate Resources only)
 - c. [Guidelines for Delivering Lifesaving Society Training](#) (in Affiliate Resources only)
 - d. [Mandatory COVID-19 Instructor Update](#)
 - e. [Airway Management & Oxygen Administration \(AMOA\) Instructor Module \(for FAIs\)](#)
 - f. [Airway Management & Oxygen Administration \(AMOA\) Instructor Module \(for NLIs, Trainers\)](#)
 - g. [Fast Track AMOA \(for National Lifeguards\)](#)

To help clarify who needs what and by when:

| I have my... | So I need to take... | And I need to attend... | I then attain my... | I need to complete this... |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| LSI, FAI, NLI, Trainer (in any stream) | Mandatory COVID-19 Instructor Update (online) | N/A | Ability to continue teaching Lifesaving Society programs | Before I teach any Lifesaving Society programs |
| LSI | LSI Recertification (coming soon) | | LSI Recertification and can teach the NEW Bronze program as of January 4, 2021 | Before January 1, 2021 |
| FAI | AMOA Instructor Module (for FAIs) Online | N/A | Ability to continue teaching AMOA with updated resources | Before I teach an AMOA course |
| NLI | AMOA Instructor Module (for NLIs & Trainers) Online | N/A | AMOA certification and AMOA Instructor certification | Before I teach an AMOA course or evaluate an AMOA Practical Skills Assessment or Before I recertify my NLI in April 2021 (start of new NLI recertification cycle) |
| Trainer (in any stream) | AMOA Instructor Module (for NLIs & Trainers) Online | N/A | AMOA certification and AMOA Instructor certification | Before I teach an AMOA course or evaluate an AMOA Practical Skills Assessment |
| NL (Pool or Waterfront) | AMOA Fast Track (for National Lifeguards) | Practical Skills Assessment taught by a current and updated FAI or AMOA Instructor | AMOA certification | Before I recertify my NL |

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- 2. National Lifeguard Age Prerequisite Change:** After much deliberation across the country, Lifesaving Society Canada has approved a change in the minimum age prerequisite to 15 years of age for National Lifeguard and Lifesaving Instructor candidates as of the last day of the course.

We recognize that in addition to age, other determinants of success in lifeguard training include physical, cognitive and emotional maturity. We are confident that the Lifesaving Society's skills evaluation for the National Lifeguard program and the new competency-based leadership system are objective measures of success to ensure quality.

We anticipate that this will provide a larger group of applicants from which Affiliates can recruit staff and help address the ongoing shortage of lifeguards and instructors. It should be noted that this change has no impact on the minimum age for employment of lifeguards and instructors, only for their eligibility to take training to prepare them for employment. The BC Pool Regulation states that a lifeguard must be sixteen (16) years of age and this age prerequisite adjustment does not affect that requirement. For the BC & Yukon Branch, this will be effective September 1, 2020.

- 3. Reopening Survey:** Another survey you ask? Yes, knowing your plans have likely changed since the May Reopening Projection survey, we're asking that you take 5 minutes or less to answer a [Pool Reopening Status Survey](#) on when you plan to open outdoor and indoor pools in your community.
- 4. National Drowning Prevention Week - July 19 to 25:** In light of COVID-19, face-to-face interaction and education on safety around the water will be limited this year, but we encourage you to provide that education through other means. Throughout the week, the Branch will be spreading the [daily themes and messages](#) through social media and hope you will do the same by sharing your own content and/or reposting content from our social media @LifesavingBCYK.

Reminders from June 17 Update:

- 5. Extension of Lifesaving Society Certifications:** In follow-up to extensions provided in our [March 26 Update](#), we have now modified that to state that all Lifesaving Society certifications expiring as of March 1, 2020, through to October 31, 2020 will now expire on October 31, 2020. This date was chosen to allow a reasonable period for recertifications to take place following anticipated August/September opening of most aquatic facilities.

As the new Bronze Medals launch has been postponed until January 4, 2021 all Lifesaving Instructors (LSIs) who qualified for the LSI extension will remain certified to December 31, 2020.

- 6. Extension of OFA Equivalent First Aid Courses:** In follow-up to extensions provided in our [March 26 Update](#), for any Lifesaving Society first aid courses deemed as OFA Level 1 equivalent (as of July 1, 2019), WorkSafeBC has modified their short term extensions of Occupational First Aid Certificates to state, "As British Columbia begins to reopen its doors, access to first aid training will increase across the province. We expect first aid attendants with expired certificates will seek recertification as soon as training is available.

Meanwhile, to further accommodate physical distancing and safe practices, WorkSafeBC has extended first aid certificates with expiry dates between March 1, 2020 & August 31, 2020. These certificates will now be acceptable in the workplace for 180 days beyond their original expiry date. Certificates will not be reprinted, and no further action is needed from either first aid attendants or employers to qualify for an extension.

If you are unable to recertify immediately, you can brush up on your skills with these [OFA Level 1 videos](#) and [first aid reference manuals](#) while you wait for training.

WorkSafeBC will continue to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak and recommendations put forth by federal and provincial agencies. Should an additional extension be required, we will release further information and direction at that time."

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